Bharat Heavy Plates

612. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the corporate headquarters of the public sector 'Bharat Heavy Plates and Vessels Limited' (BHPV) is proposed to be shifted from Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) to Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh); and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Pending cases in Delhi Courts

613. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOUDHURY :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a total of 512772 cases were pending in Delhi courts in 1982 and if so, the break up of these cases indicating civil suits, small causes suits, civil appeals, traffic challans, DDA, STA. and MCD suits, rent cases etc.;

(b) what is the position of (a) above as on 1st April, 1968;

(c) how many of the above cases had been pending for over five years; and

(d) whether Government propose to appoint about 169 more sub-judges as reported in the Times of India dated the 10th October, 1986 to finish the backlog in a year's time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) No decision has been taken in the matter as the same is under correspondence with Delhi Administration.

Out of turn allotment of Maruti Cars

614. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some persons have been allotted Maruti Cars out of turn during the last six months in the country; if so. what are the names, addresses and occupations of such persons; and

(b) what are the reasons, in each case, for which the allotment was made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The out of turn allotments of cars by Maruti Udyog Limited, from Manufacturer's Quota, are made according to the guidelines given by Supreme Court in their ruling dated 7th March, 1986. It will not be an appropriate commercial practice to disclose details of these transactions between Maruti Udyog Ltd. and its customers.

Electronic voting machines in Elections

615. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the proposal for switching over from the conventional method of voting to introduction of electronic machines in elections to Parliament and State Assemblies;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Election Commission had to give up this experiment when the Supreme Court upheld the view that law did not empower the Commission to make such innovations; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps are being taken up by Government to clear this hurdle?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) A preliminary decision has been taken by Government to introduce electronic voting machines in elections to Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. Final decision will however be taken after holding consultation with political parties.

(c) The Election Commission took note of the observations of the Supreme Court in its judgement delivered on the 5th March, 1984 in A. C. Jose Vs. Sivan Pillai and others. However, the Commission continued its efforts and requested the Government to undertake suitable amendment to the election laws to facilitate introduction of electronic voting machines.

(d) The Supreme Court had among other things observed in the judgment that when the Act (Representation of the People Act, 1951) and the Rules prescribed a particular method of voting, the Election Commission could not innovate a new method. It is accordingly proposed to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951 with a view to introduce electronic voting machines. But, this would be done in the light of the final decision that may emerge after consultation with political parties.

Demand for increasing the strength of High Court Judges

616. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several High Courts in the country have demanded the increase in the number of judges for speedy disposal of the pending cases;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the Government's decision thereon;

(c) whether Government have asked for the names of the judges to be appointed; if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there has been an inordinate delay in appointing such judges; and

(e) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Chief Ministers and Chief Justices concerned with fourteen High Courts were addressed by the Central Government in June, 1985 to consider augmentation of Judge strength for speedy disposal of cases. On receipt of proposals, it was agreed to create 83 new posts of Judges/Additional Judges in different High Courts. Of these, 7 posts have since been formally sanctioned on appointments having been approved against these. A statement showing the High Court wise breakup of the remaining 76 posts is attached. (*See* below).

(c) to (e) The Government have again written to the Chief Ministers of States requesting them to send proposals for appointment of Judges, and have *inter-alia* reiterated the instructions prescribing a time-schedule by which the Chief Justices and the State authorities should send their recommendations so that vacancies are filled up expeditiously.

Proposals received for filling up of some vacancies are at different stages of consideration.

Appointment of 21 Judges/Additional Judges has been approved by the President and will be notified shortly.